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## SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Upon the request of Miss Kate Barnard, commissioner of charities and correction, of Oklahoma, Governor Ben W. Hooper of Tennessee issued in February last to the governors of fifteen other southern states and to various public and private civic and social organizations a call for a Southern Sociological Congress to be held at Nashville on May 7-10, to study and discuss social and civic problems of the South. On the date set more than seven hundred delegates and many visitors met, carried out a pre-arranged program, and effected permanent organization. The following general subjects were discussed by more than fifty speakers: child welfare, courts and prisons, public health, Negro problems, enemies of the home, education and co-operation, the church and social service, the call and qualifications of the social worker.

As might be expected by those who know the needs of the South, the program was thoroughly practical in character. The general purpose of the Congress is "to study and improve social, civic, and economic conditions in the South." The Congress declared for the following principles:

The abolition of the convict lease and contract systems, and the adoption of modern principles of prison reform.

The extension and improvement of juvenile courts and juvenile reformatories.

The proper care and treatment of defectives, the blind, the deaf, the insane, the epileptic, and the feeble-minded.

The recognition of the relation of alcoholism to disease, to crime, to pauperism, and to vice, and the adoption of appropriate preventive measures.

The adoption of uniform laws of the highest standards concerning marriage and divorce.

The adoption of the uniform law on vital statistics.

The abolition of child labor by the enactment of the uniform child labor law.

The enactment of school attendance laws, that the reproach of the greatest degree of illiteracy may be removed from our section.

The suppression of prostitution.

The solving of the race question in a spirit of helpfulness to the Negro, and of equal justice to both races.

The closest co-operation between the church and all social agencies for the securing of these results.

Officers of the permanent organization were elected as follows: president, Governor Ben W. Hooper; vice-presidents, A. J. McKelway and Miss Kate Barnard; general secretary, J. E. McCulloch, Nashville. Additional members of the Executive Committee are Mrs. W. L. Murdock, Alabama; Professor C. H. Brough, Arkansas; Dr. Wickliffe Rose, District of Columbia; Professor L. L. Bernard, Florida; Mr. W. Woods White, Georgia; Mr. Bernard Flexner, Kentucky; Miss Agnes Morris, Louisiana; Mr. H. Wirt Steele, Maryland; Mr. A. T. Stovall, Mississippi; Professor C. A. Ellwood, Missouri; Mr. Clarence Poe, North Carolina; Mr. H. Huson, Oklahoma; Judge J. A. McCullough, South Carolina; Mr. W. R. Cole, Tennessee; Professor C. S. Potts, Texas; Dr. J. T. Mastin, Virginia; and Governor W. E. Glasscock, West Virginia. Mrs. W. E. Cole, a wealthy southern woman of civic spirit, has made the Congress a substantial gift and has been named Founder by the Executive Committee.

The Congress will meet yearly in some southern city. Membership is open to anyone interested in the purpose of the Congress. The fee for the active member, which entitles the subscriber to all publications including the annual reports and to all privileges, is two dollars yearly. The organization maintains a permanent secretariat and expects to operate a general clearing-house of information for social workers and students and legislators.

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